

the former genus in the latter. However, the green phase birds may be an extreme expression of the yellow-bellied juvenals that occur in the races *undosus* and *katangae*. White- and yellow-bellied juvenals occur in both these races, a condition not uncommon in many warblers but usually considered individual variation rather than dimorphism. In *katangae*, however, there may actually be dimorphism. Irwin (*in litt.*) had six juvenals of *katangae* from Zambia. Of these, five were white-bellied and one yellow-bellied, nor have any been recorded that could be considered intermediate. If the juvenals of *katangae* are actually dimorphic, then the origin of the strikingly different phases in *cinerea* is more easily explained.

### On the plumage (including a partial albino), moults and breeding season of *Lamprotornis australis* (Smith)

by R. K. BROOKE

Received 28th January, 1967

I have already shown (Brooke 1967) that the related Southern Long-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* (Wahlberg) has a complete pre-nuptial moult and an incomplete post-nuptial moult unlike the majority of passerines. I have since had the opportunity of examining a series of 29 specimens of Burchell's Starling *L. australis* (Smith) in the National Museum, Bulawayo. This is not an adequate series for a full scale moult study although it is probably the largest single collection of this starling in the world. The evidence is not conclusive, but it appears that this species also completes most of its moult immediately before breeding. Benson and Pitman (1966) mention four breeding records, apparently all that are known, one is referable to November at the beginning of the rainy season and the other three are referable to March, near the end of the rainy season. There is no evidence that they breed at any other time of the year and it seems unlikely that all four records should be totally out of the species' natural season. One may assume therefore, that Burchell's Starling is a rainy season breeder.

Moult is first seen in specimens collected in early September. The breast, throat, mantle and back moult first and subsequently the wing and tail feathers. The moult in the primaries is a descending one and in the secondaries it is an ascending one with an occasional individual feather not moulted. In the tail the central pair of rectrices moult first. The last two pairs to moult are the second outermost followed by the third outermost which is the final pair to moult. The growth of the outer primaries which are the last feathers to grow is delayed due to the onset of breeding. Consequently the total period of the pre-nuptial moult is September to March but most of the moult takes place between September and December, the remaining period being devoted to moulting the outermost primaries. The slow-down is presumably due to the increased energy requirements of the reproductive period.

There is no evidence of a post-nuptial moult.

It is probable that immature birds start moulting a little before adults. They may be told from adults by the lesser amount of iridescence on the abdomen and the dull green rather than blue-green breast. This latter

characteristic may sometimes be produced in adult birds by very marked wearing of the breast feathers. It also appears that immature birds complete their moult by December and that the birds collected by Traylor (1965) in fresh plumage in December were immature birds who had just completed their post-juvenile moult and were about to breed for the first time. The overall similarity to *L. mevesii* as described in Brooke (1967) is considerable.

A female Burchell's Starling shot on 2 May 1958 forty-one miles north-west of Molepolele in Botswana in fairly fresh plumage shows some symmetrical albinism: there is a single white feather at the back end of the black cheek patch; there are several minute white feathers below and behind the eye; there is one white feather on the side of the nape and two in the upper wing-coverts. The tenth (outermost) primary of the right wing is white whereas that on the left is normal.

I am obliged to the Curator, National Museum, Bulawayo, and to Mr. M. P. Stuart Irwin, Ornithologist there, for facilities for study and to the latter for criticizing a draft of this paper.

#### References:

- Benson, C. A. and Pitman, C. R. S. 1966. Further breeding records from Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) (No. 5). *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 86: 21-33.  
 Brooke, R. K. 1967. On the moults and breeding season of the Long-tailed Starling *Lamprotornis mevesii* (Wahlberg). *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* 87: 2-5.  
 Traylor, M. A. 1965. A collection of birds from Barotseland and Bechuanaland. *Ibis* 107: 357-384.

## On the type locality of *Campethera a. abingoni* (Smith)

by C. M. N. WHITE

Received 10th January, 1967

In *Bull. B.O.C.* 1965, 85, p. 64 Mr. Clancey considers that the type locality of *Campethera abingoni abingoni* (Smith) has been incorrectly accepted by ornithologists as Natal, and should be shifted to the western Transvaal with consequent changes of name of two forms of this woodpecker. Such changes of names which have been in use for decades are to be deplored and are, I believe, not warranted.

Clancey argues that the words after the description "occurs in the same localities with the last" must be construed as meaning Kurrichaine, *i.e.* Zeerust, western Transvaal because that was the locality given for the preceding species. In my view the words are ambiguous and need not have a geographical connotation at all. They could equally describe types of environment or could merely denote the fact that the two species of woodpecker occur sympatrically. Consequently I consider that Port Natal, the locality quoted in the footnote "specimens of this species were obtained near Port Natal" is the correct type locality.

Even if "the same localities with the last" is construed in a geographical sense, and considered on line priority to have precedence over the footnote, both localities occur on the same page and there is nothing to prevent the latter and only categorical locality being taken as the restricted type locality. The first reviser principle can be applied in this as it has in many other similar cases. If doubt still exists the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should be requested to rule that Port Natal is the correct type locality in accordance with the principle of conservation.